

SCENE IV. A

Room in CYMBELINE'S

Palace.

Enter IMOGEN and PISANIO.

JMO. I would thou grew'st unto the
shores o' the
haven,

And question'dst every sail: if he should
write, And I not have it, 'twere a paper
lost, As offer'd mercy is². What was
the last That he spake to thee ?

Pis. 'Twas, *His queen, his
queen !*

JMO. Then wav'd his handkerchief ?

Pis. And kiss'd it,
madam,

IMO. Senseless linen! happier therein
than I !— And that was all ?

Pis. No, madam ; for so long
As he could make me with this eye or
ear³

• 'twere a paper lost,

As offer'd mercy is.] I believe the poet's meaning
is, that the loss of that paper would prove as fatal
to her, as the loss of a pardon to a condemned
criminal.

A thought resembling this, occurs in All's Well
That Ends Well:

** Like a remorseful *pardon* slowly carried."

STEEVENS. 3 ~ with THIS eye or ear —] [Old
copy—his eye, &c.] But how could Posthumus
make himself distinguished by his *ear* to
Pisanio ? By his tongue he might to the
other's ear, and this was certainly Shakspeare's
intention. We must therefore read ; " As he
could make me with *this* eye, or ear,

" Distinguish him from others "

The expression is SfeixrwS^ as the Greeks term
it: the party speaking points to the part spoken of.
WAH.BURTON. Sir T. Hanmer alters it thus :

" -----for so long

" As he could *mark* me with his eye, 'or I

" Distinguish--"

The reason, of Sir T. Hanmer's reading was,
that Pisanio de-^pribes no address made to the
ear; JOHNSON.

This description, and what follows it, seems
imitated from the